



2009 Annual Report

MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH

MISSION:

To administer justice by providing a safe, accessible, efficient and impartial system of dispute resolution that serves the public interest, protects individual rights, and instills respect for the law.

UNIFIED CRIMINAL DOCKET IS A SUCCESS IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY



The Judges and Clerks of the Cumberland County Unified Criminal Docket

The Cumberland County Unified Criminal Docket (UCD) was developed to replace the traditional two-tiered system with a single efficient method for processing criminal actions. The project has met its primary goals to promote the prompt and fair resolution of cases through early information sharing, to provide early access to appointed counsel for indigent defendants and to direct sufficient judicial resources for expedited case processing. It has increased efficiency by eliminating the duplicative clerical workload created by case transfers between the District and Superior Courts and by reducing the number of court appearances required to process individual cases. This successful model will be expanded to other counties; Penobscot County has already begun to use a similar process.

PENOBSCOT JUDICIAL CENTER OPENS DOORS TO COMMUNITY



The Penobscot Judicial Center opened in December 2009, ahead of schedule and under budget. Located at 78 Exchange St. in Bangor, the environmentally responsible facility meets the Maine Energy Conservation Building Standards. It serves as home to a consolidated clerks' office and the Penobscot County Superior and the Bangor District Courts. It offers full-time entry screening as well as security cameras in every courtroom.

FORECLOSURE DIVERSION PROGRAM CREATED TO HELP EASE CRISIS



The Foreclosure Diversion Program was established as a result of legislation that became effective in June 2009. The purpose is to assist homeowners and lenders in achieving mutually agreeable resolutions to mortgage foreclosure actions through the diversion process. The Supreme Judicial Court created a pilot project, which began in York County in August 2009, making mediation sessions available to the parties involved in residential foreclosures. The Foreclosure Diversion Program became available statewide on January 1, 2010. More information about the Foreclosure Diversion Program is available on the Judicial Branch web site at this link www.courts.state.me.us/court_info/services/foreclosure/index.html.

HOULTON COURTHOUSE RENOVATIONS COMPLETE

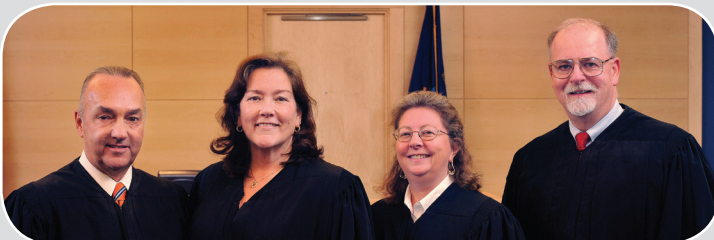


View from the bench



District Court Clerks' office

The renovation of the Houlton Courthouse was completed in 2009, consolidating the District and Superior Courts into one building. The improvements, which included modern technology and an increase from one to two courtrooms, will greatly improve the delivery of justice in Aroostook County.



From Left to Right: **THOMAS E. HUMPHREY**, Chief Justice, Superior Court, **LEIGH I. SAUFLEY**, Chief Justice, Supreme Judicial Court, **ANN M. MURRAY**, Chief Judge, District Court, **CHARLES C. LAVERDIERE**, Deputy Chief Judge, District Court



TED GLESSNER,
State Court Administrator

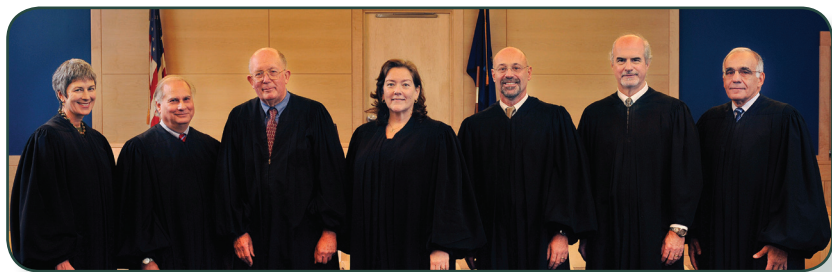
JUDICIAL BRANCH LEADERSHIP

MAINE STATE COURTS: AT A GLANCE

POPULATION SERVED.....	1,316,456
GEOGRAPHIC AREA.....	35,387 sq. mi.
COURT LOCATIONS.....	40
BUDGET	\$63,388,200
% of State General Fund.....	2.1%
JUDGES (Total).....	60
Supreme Judicial Court Justices.....	7
Superior Court Justices.....	17
District Court Judges.....	36
FAMILY LAW MAGISTRATES.....	8
STAFF (clerks, security & support).....	444
TOTAL 2009 CASES FILED	292,295
Supreme Judicial Court.....	733
Superior Court.....	18,667
District Court.....	132,340
Violations Bureau.....	140,580

THE COURTS OF MAINE

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The Supreme Judicial Court is the governing body of the Judicial Branch. Sitting as the Law Court, it is the court of final appeal.

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT NEW CASE FILINGS

Criminal.....	210
Civil.....	302
Worker's Compensation.....	58
Family/Divorce.....	97
Child Protective.....	41
SJC.....	25
TOTAL.....	733

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The Justices of the Superior Court serve the entire State, hearing both civil and criminal cases, including jury trials.

TRIAL COURT FILINGS

CRIMINAL FILINGS

District Court.....	53,855
Superior Court.....	14,478
TOTAL.....	68,333

CIVIL FILINGS

District Court.....	21,602
Superior Court.....	4,189
TOTAL.....	25,791

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The District Court hears both civil and criminal cases, in addition to exercising exclusive jurisdiction over family, juvenile, child protective, protection from abuse, small claims, and traffic violation cases.

DISTRICT COURT NEW CASE FILINGS

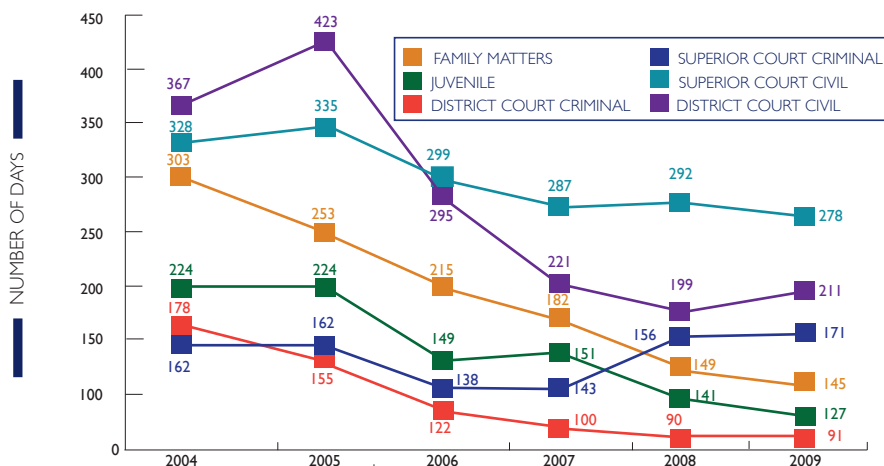
Family/Divorce.....	9,316
Small Claims.....	11,392
Juvenile.....	3,504
Forcible Entry.....	4,786
Protection from Abuse.....	6,130
Protection from Harassment.....	4,022
Child Protective.....	755
Mental Health.....	1,008
Civil Violations.....	15,970
Traffic Infractions.....	140,580
TOTAL.....	197,463

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There are eight Family Law Magistrates serving the entire State.

TIME TO RESOLUTION OF CASES



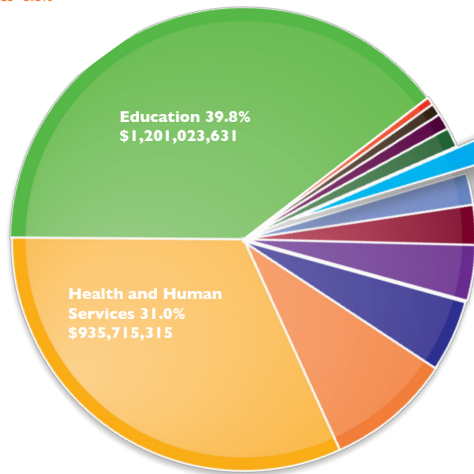
Coordinated regional scheduling, implemented in the trial courts in 2004, has greatly reduced the time it takes to dispose of the most urgent cases – those dealing with violence, children, and families. For example, as illustrated by this graph, the average age of pending family cases has decreased significantly, from 303 days in 2004 to 145 days in 2009.

Data provided in this graph reports the average number of days from filing date, for all cases that are open on June 30 each year.

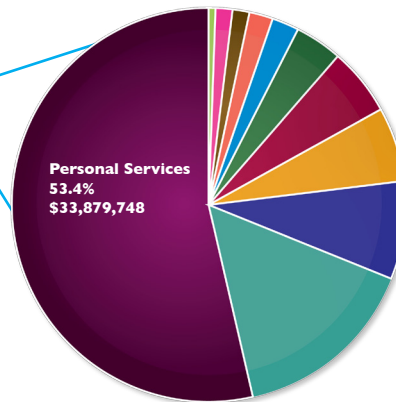
FISCAL INFORMATION

GENERAL FUND AND JUDICIAL BRANCH EXPENDITURES

- University & Community Colleges 8.8%
\$266,014,980
- Corrections 5.3%
\$159,838,115
- Administrative & Financial Services 4%
\$121,445,364
- Treasurer of the State 2.8%
\$83,914,018
- Natural Resources 2.3%
\$68,290,197
- JUDICIAL BRANCH 2.1%
\$63,388,200**
- Atty. General & Public Safety 1.3%
\$39,376,053
- General Government 0.9%
\$28,165,459
- Legislature 0.9%
\$26,614,736
- Other 0.9%
\$26,013,956



**STATEWIDE GENERAL FUND
EXPENDITURES, FY'09
Total: \$3,019,800,023**

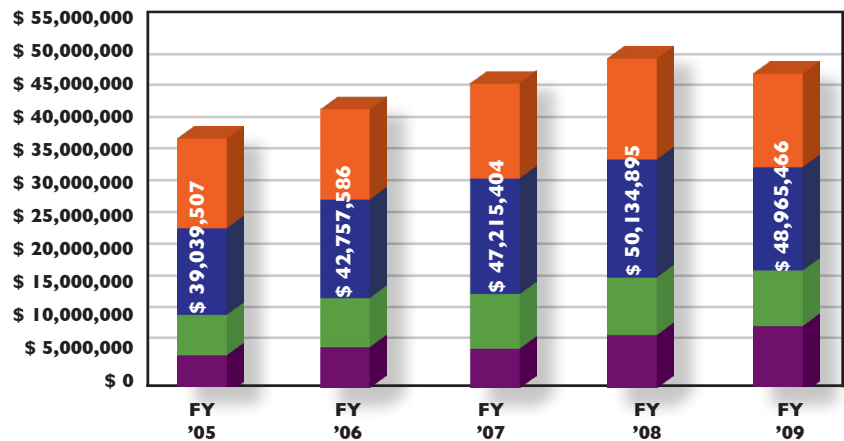


**JUDICIAL BRANCH GENERAL
FUND EXPENDITURES FY'09
Total: \$63,388,200**

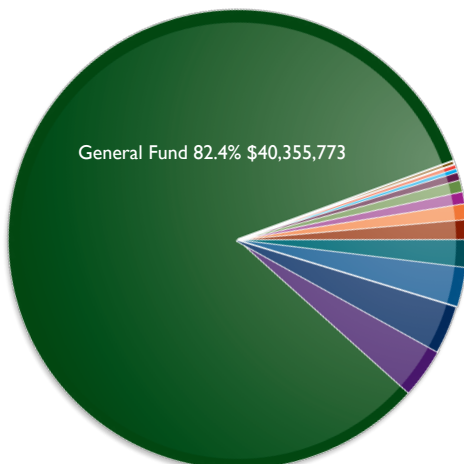
REVENUE COLLECTED BY THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

In FY'09, revenue collection declined for the first time in decades; 2.3% less than was collected in FY'08.

	FY '05	FY '06	FY '07	FY '08	FY '09
Traffic Fines	\$13,684,913	\$13,900,526	\$14,795,496	\$15,339,081	\$14,276,283
Court Fines	\$13,250,059	\$15,073,730	\$17,882,826	\$17,930,434	\$15,845,961
Surcharges	\$6,171,874	\$7,514,573	\$8,408,300	\$8,770,421	\$8,455,336
Fees	\$5,932,661	\$6,268,757	\$6,128,782	\$8,094,959	\$10,387,886
TOTALS	\$39,039,507	\$42,757,586	\$47,215,404	\$50,134,895	\$48,965,466



REVENUE DISTRIBUTED BY THE JUDICIAL BRANCH



Revenue collected by the Judicial Branch is deposited into the State's General Fund and to other dedicated accounts. Sources of revenue include fees, fines, and surcharges.

**FY'09 Revenue Distribution
Total: \$48,965,466**

COURT REGIONS AND CASES FILED

REGION 5

FILINGS 21,028
DISPOSITIONS 20,400
REGIONAL POPULATION 165,612
COURT LOCATIONS 7

PENOBSCOT

Bangor Superior 1,727
Bangor District 12,147
Newport District 2,562
Lincoln District 1,513
Millinocket District 1,092

PISCATAQUIS

Dover-Foxcroft Superior 116
Dover-Foxcroft District 1,871

REGION 4

FILINGS 20,753
DISPOSITIONS 20,121
REGIONAL POPULATION 172,336
COURT LOCATIONS 6

SOMERSET

Skowhegan Superior 624
Skowhegan District 5,405

KENNEBEC

Augusta Superior 1,527
Augusta District 7,419
Waterville District 5,778

REGION 3

FILINGS 23,290
DISPOSITIONS 22,403
REGIONAL POPULATION 193,475
COURT LOCATIONS 7

FRANKLIN

Farmington Superior 458
Farmington District 3,027

OXFORD

South Paris Superior 696
South Paris District 2,361
Rumford District 2,294

ANDROSCOGGIN

Auburn Superior 1,738
Lewiston District 12,716

REGION 2

FILINGS 28,423
DISPOSITIONS 28,129
REGIONAL POPULATION 276,047
COURT LOCATIONS 2

CUMBERLAND

Portland Superior 4,560
Portland District 19,977
Bridgton District 3,886

REGION 1

FILINGS 23,543
DISPOSITIONS 22,309
REGIONAL POPULATION 201,686
COURT LOCATIONS 4

YORK

Alfred Superior 3,559
Biddeford District 9,723
Springvale District 5,328
York District 4,933

REGION 8

FILINGS 8,691
DISPOSITIONS 8,305
REGIONAL POPULATION 71,676
COURT LOCATIONS 5

AROOSTOOK

Caribou/Houlton Superior 1,045
Caribou District 1,647
Houlton District 1,779
Presque Isle District 2,760
Fort Kent/Madawaska District 1,460

REGION 7

FILINGS 8,936
DISPOSITIONS 8,407
REGIONAL POPULATION 85,636
COURT LOCATIONS 3

HANCOCK

Ellsworth Superior 460
Ellsworth District 4,839

WASHINGTON

Machias Superior 378
Machias District 1,749
Calais District 1,510

REGION 6

FILINGS 16,343
DISPOSITIONS 16,379
REGIONAL POPULATION 149,988
COURT LOCATIONS 6

WALDO

Belfast Superior 501
Belfast District 3,005

KNOX

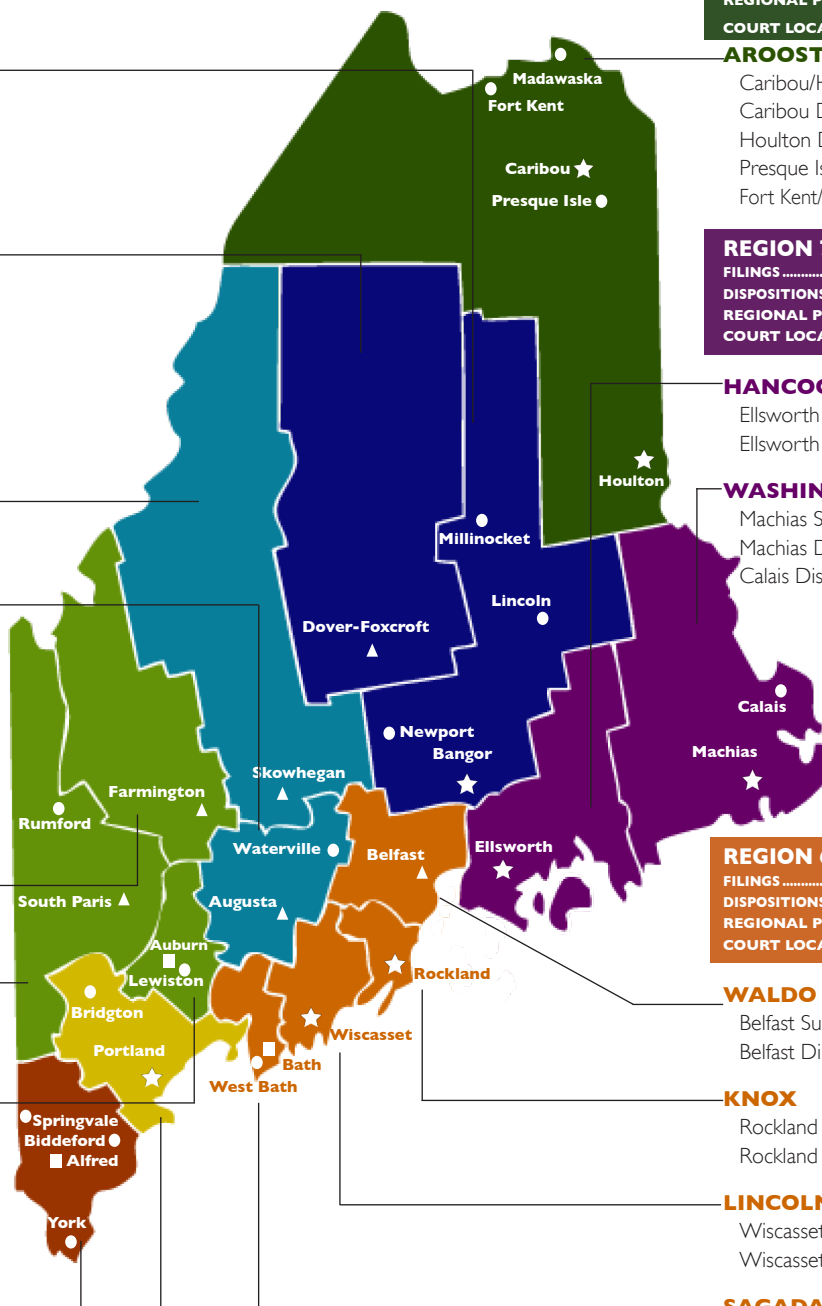
Rockland Superior 465
Rockland District 3,460

LINCOLN

Wiscasset Superior 374
Wiscasset District 2,572

SAGadahoc

Bath Superior 439
West Bath District 5,527



KEY

- District Court
- Superior Court
- ▲ District and Superior in the same city/town.
- ★ District and Superior Court occupy the same building.

Counties grouped together by color are part of a single court **REGION**, where resources and scheduling are coordinated.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit the Court's web page at www.courts.state.me.us where you'll find:

- PUBLICATIONS: A Guide to Small Claims • A Guide to Protection from Abuse and Harassment
Citizens Guide to the Courts • Child Protective Handbooks
- INFORMATION about court proceedings and offices
- LINKS to legal resources, volunteer opportunities, court rules, forms and opinions

An expanded version of this report is available at www.courts.state.me.us/annual_reports/index.shtml

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

PO Box 4820
Portland, ME 04112-4820
(207) 822-0792
(207) 822-0701 (TTY)

TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS: Total: 140,580

